(*f*).—Exploitation of Minor Forest Produce.

(*1*).—*Extraction of Fodder and* (*2*).—*Grazing.*

138. Under this head it may be appropriate to say something on the subject of fodder supplied to the famine-affected districts.

139. In accordance with the orders contained in Government Resolution No. 9158, dated 18th November 1896, arrangements for the cutting of grass were made early in December 1896, and a large quantity of grass was collected by departmental agency in the Northern and Southern Divisions of Kánara, and in Belgaum and Dhárwár. Hay-presses were set up in convenient places near the Southern Mahrátta Railway stations, and the grass collected was pressed into bales and despatched to Bijápur and other famine-affected districts, under the orders of the Conservator of Forests, on special duty. The expenditure incurred by the Divisional Officers in connection with these operations, was defrayed from famine-funds placed at their disposal, and separate accounts were rendered by them direct to the officer above mentioned.

(*3*).—*Miscellaneous Produce.*

140. There is nothing new to record under this head, except that Cassia bark was extracted departmentally in the Bágalkot and Hungund tálukas, so as to provide work for the famine-stricken people of the Bijápur District.

141. About 1,292 men, women and children were engaged in collecting the bark, the wages paid to them being in proportion to the quantity collected and brought into depôts, calculated at Rs. 8 per *khandi* of 480 lbs. Men and women were able to earn about 2½ to 3 annas each per diem, and the children about 1½ annas. A quantity of 471 *khandis* was collected at a cost of Rs. 4,155, and of this, 342 *khandis* were sold during the year for Rs. 3,861.

CHAPTER III.

GROSS YIELD AND OUTTURN OF FOREST PRODUCE.

NORTHERN, SOUTHERN AND WESTERN DIVISIONS OF KA'NARA.

142. The large teak exploited yielded 346,472 cubic feet against 352,817 cubic feet in 1895-96, and small teak such as poles, rafters, &c., aggregated 49,442 cubic feet against 55,360.

143. The large junglewood removed fell from 361,138 cubic feet in 1895-96 to 305,796 in 1896-97, but small junglewood rose from 100,575 cubic feet to 111,355. The number of *Jámba* (*Xylia dolabriformis*) sleepers prepared for the Southern Mahrátta and Bombay Baroda and Central India Railways was 88,187 against 26,337 of 1895-96.

144. The yield of large blackwood rose from 16,556 cubic feet in 1895-96 to 42,944 in 1896-97, and of small blackwood amounted to 639 cubic feet.

145. In the yield of teak, there is a decrease of 40,129 cubic feet in Northern Kánara, and this is mainly due to the complete failure of the contractor who undertook to supply girdled wood from the Gund forests to the Kódibág depôt. The Haliyál contractors also were very dilatory and did not bring in the full quantities agreed upon. The principal reason for the failure in the former case was, that owing to the early cessation of rains, there was a scarcity of water in the *Kálinadi* river and no timber could be floated down to the Kódibág depôt in consequence.

146. In consequence of the introduction of the Supa Working-Plan in the Northern Division of Kánara, large blackwood rose from 9,962 to 36,529 cubic feet in 1896-97, and junglewood fell from 70,412 cubic feet to 37,571 cubic feet. The plan provides for the systematic exploitation of teak and blackwood only; hence the labour hitherto devoted to junglewood has now been transferred to these two kinds. The number of *Jámba* sleepers, however, increased from 10,564 in 1895-96 to 29,410 in 1896-97.

147. In the Southern Division of Kánara, large teak increased from 114,593 to 124,298 cubic feet, and would have been greatly in excess of the increased quantity, but for the failure of the contractor referred to in para. 145 above to bring in to the Kódibág depôt girdled wood from the Waderookly, Shelébail, &c., forests, for the same reason as noted in that para. There was also an increase of 6,486 cubic feet in small junglewood and this was mainly due